

EXHIBIT A



Disclosure BOC8-2003-0020

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By Keith A Thuerk On 01/29/2003 02:09:00 PM MST

Last Modified By Keith A Thuerk On 02/04/2003 09:54:48 AM EST

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form.

*Title of disclosure (in English)

Customized Microsoft Service Control GUI

Summary

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Status | Under Evaluation |
| Final Deadline | |
| Final Deadline | |
| Reason | |
| *Processing Location | Boca Raton |
| *Functional Area | select (11) Global Sales Operation & Technical Support - (Unland) Div 91 |
| Attorney/Patent Professional | Richard Tomlin/Boca Raton/IBM |
| IDT Team | select [REDACTED] |
| Submitted Date | 01/31/2003 09:39:38 AM MST |
| *Owning Division | select SDG |
| Incentive Program | |
| Lab | |
| *Technology Code | 673 |
| PVT Score | |

Inventors with a Blue Pages entry

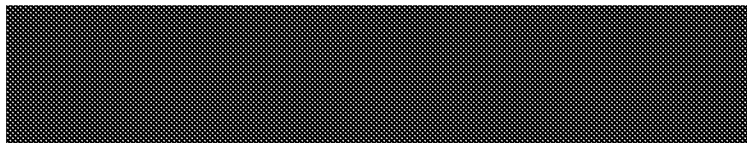
Inventors: Keith A Thuerk/Dallas/IBM

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Inventors without a Blue Pages entry

IDT Selection



*Main Idea

1. Background: What is the problem solved by your invention? Describe known solutions to this problem (if any). What are the drawbacks of such known solutions, or why is an additional solution required? Cite any relevant technical documents or references.

When administering a Windows NT/2000 Server the system administrator must scroll through lots of Windows Services that may or may not be relevant to that particular system under their control. For instance, there will be a certain amount of system services which will be in a "disabled or manual" state(s) which would be normally ignored by the system administrator while searching for a specific system service(s). While the more critical system services would need to be located and then managed (stopped/started/paused) depending on the nature of the task at hand.

The intent of this invention is to add-on a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to allow system administrators to customize the Microsoft Windows System Services view for each and every server to display just these services which have been deemed critical by the system administrators. This invention would only be intended to impact systems under the control of the company administrators easing the burden of administering the Microsoft System Services on all the systems under their control. These customizable views should not be accessible from outside their domain of control.

2. Summary of invention: Briefly describe the core idea of your invention (saving the details for questions #3 below). Describe the advantage(s) of using your invention instead of the known solutions described above.

Develop an add-on for the Microsoft System Service control GUI to allow a customizable view for each individual server or based on the server role within their scope of control. This invention would cut down on the amount of time locating/stopping/starting the necessary system or application services. Since, this GUI could be based on access rights the native system security would be tighter.

3. Description: Describe how your invention works, and how it could be implemented, using text, diagrams and flow charts as appropriate.

This customized Microsoft System Service control GUI could also be used for two specific functions:

- 1) Control which system services are displayed based on system access rights (group)
- 2) Allow another view allowed by user access rights.

For instance, the Print Operator groups would only need the necessary rights to see and control two or three system services so the Print Operators group would receive the customized GUI that would only display two or three system services. (or if they had more system control the appropriate services could be displayed). The example above satisfies the view based on group rights.

The view that could be presented to the Administrators group(s) could be controlled by group level access or allow for more granular control at the user(s) level. Most if not all system services could be accessible to allow them to control all the required services by default and customized Microsoft System Service control GUI view too.

Allowing a group(s) specific view of the Microsoft System Service control GUI could allow for faster troubleshooting and problem determination in times of duress and normal day to day operational status situations.

- The customized GUI would present a filtered view of only the essential system services.
- The customized GUI could also offer more security than the generic all access GUI presented by Microsoft, by "hiding" the services the group does not have authority to access.

This customized GUI could be in the form of an application Wizard so, that as the system was initially being installed and configured the GUI could be tailored to fit the needs at that time. And since, the application wizard will remain on the Windows NT/2000 server after install and configuration it could be accessed at later times for further customization.

It might be wise to develop default Microsoft Windows System Services views for the default Microsoft

Group(s) to demonstrate to customers how this unique application add-on would benefit their administrative domain.

After offering a basis for Default system groups customers could easily learn how to setup their own view structure it to fit their needs.

Default Groups:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Guests: | No access to any views by default |
| Users: | No access to any views by default |
| Replicator: | No access to any views by default |
| Backup Operators: | Control only over what has been assigned, by default no access |
| Power Users: | Control only over what has been assigned, by default no access |
| Administrators: | Full view/control access |

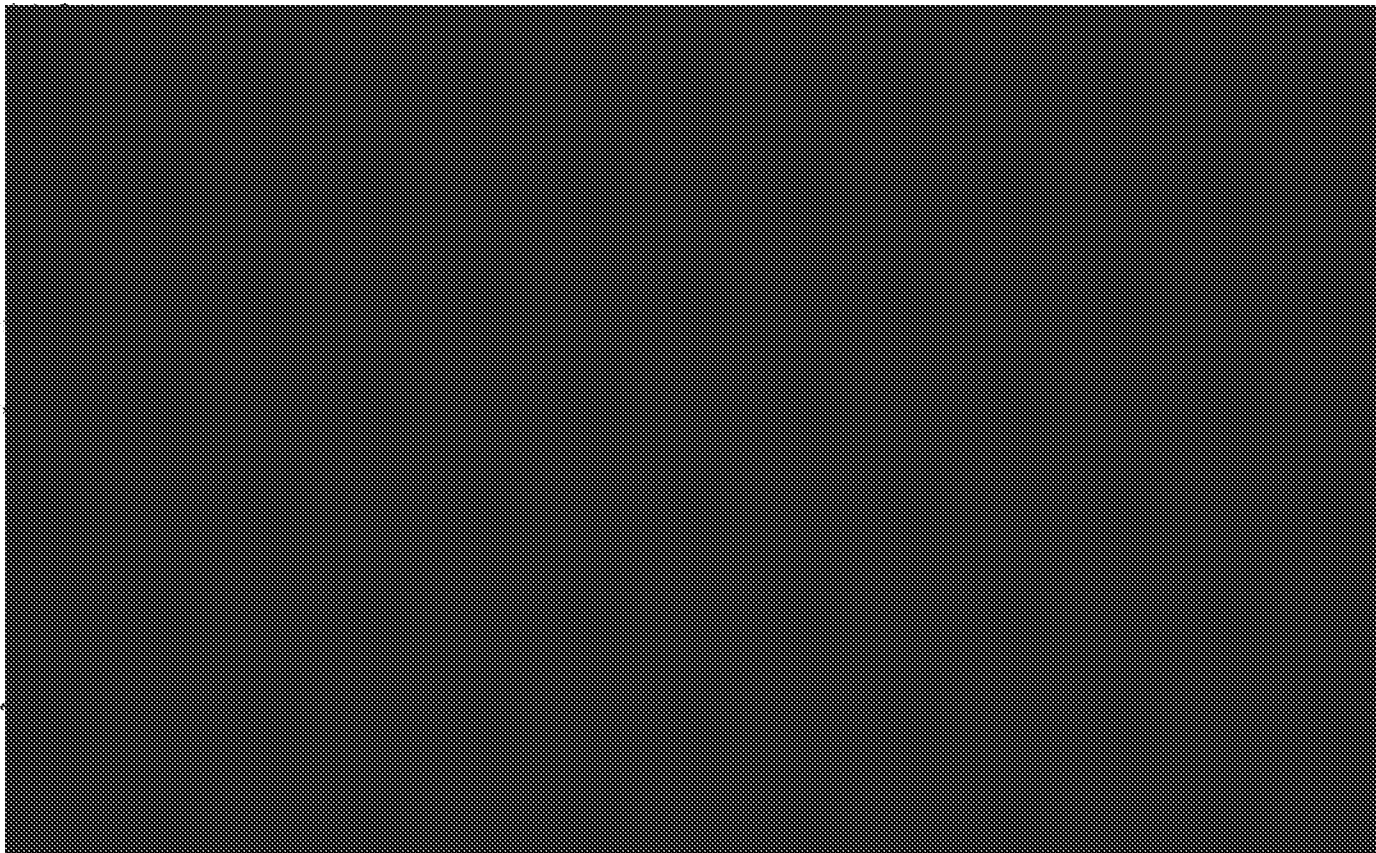
The intended destination for this new System Services GUI add-on is it would live in the Directory Services for the Windows NT/2000 servers (either Microsoft Active Directory (ADS) or Novell Directory Services (NDS) for NT/2000). Since, the directory servers are one layer up from the servers (NT/2000) that they administer creating the GUI in the directory allows for rapid changes to be deployed across all the servers under the system administrators control. I.e. One change could impact any number of servers.

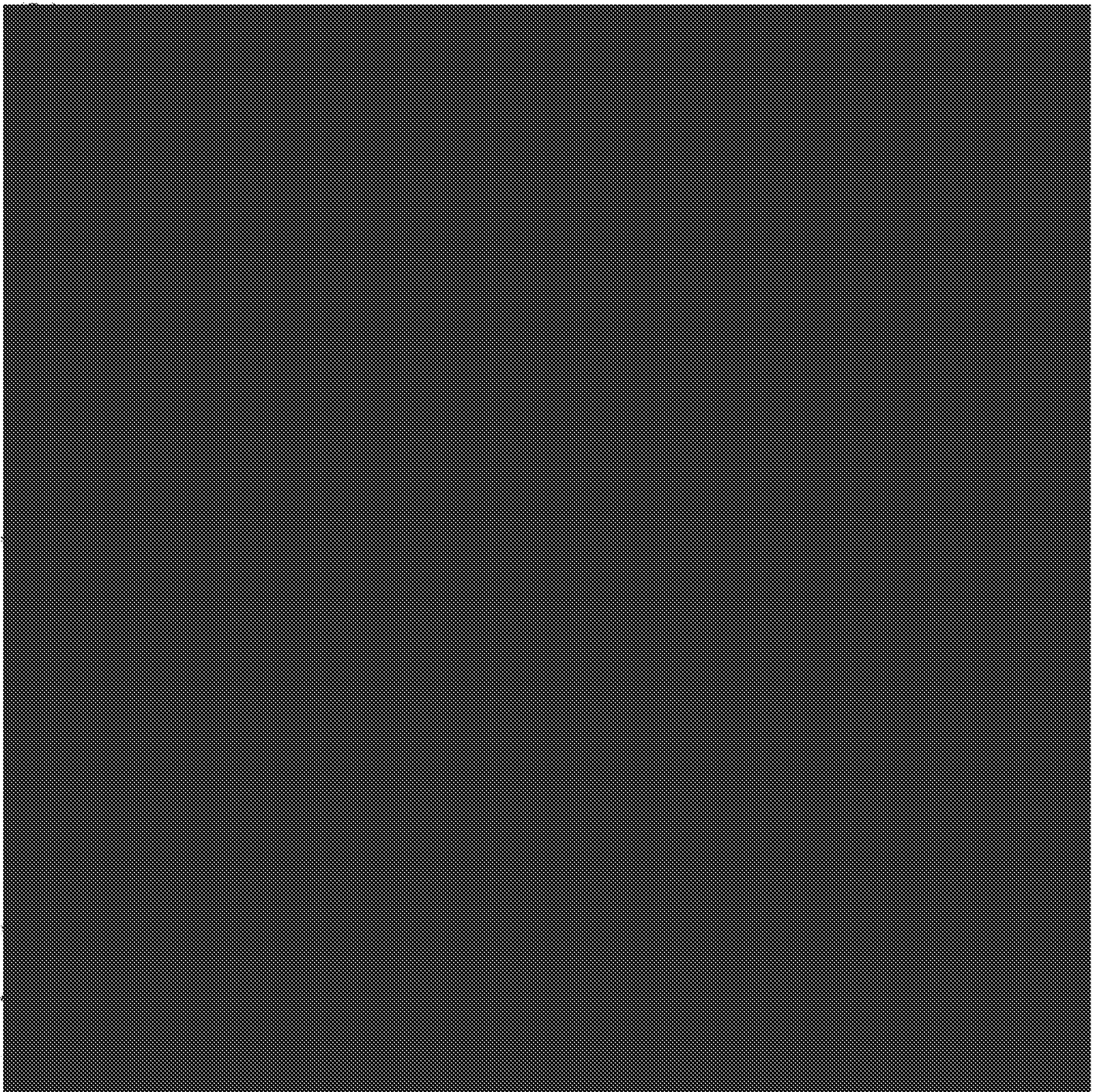
The attached Screen shots should demonstrate the concept of the "new System service GUI" although the second (2nd) screen shot fails to convey my concept of grouping all the authorized system services into one area and arranged alphabetically (these concepts should be implied).



MSFT Services GUI.rtf

*Patent Value Tool





*PVT II

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings
Disclosure History

Form Revised 09/01/02